



WASFAA Highlights is a monthly electronic news update provided by the WASFAA President for the benefit of the WASFAA membership. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to WASFAA activities and newsworthy items of interest to the WASFAA community. Past issues are archived on the WASFAA website at <http://www.wasfaa.org>. Additional information regarding any given issue may be obtained by emailing the current WASFAA President, Tami Sato, at tsato@scco.edu.

WASFAA Highlights for the Month of April, 2006 - (Vol. 2, No. 1)

- Greetings from your 2006/2007 WASFAA President. I will be trying to follow Steve Herndon's lead and bring you this timely monthly communications tool in response to the membership survey and the guidelines of the WASFAA Strategic Plan.
- Our next newsletter will have photos from the great 2006 WASFAA Conference in Reno, Nevada where there were an estimated 540 attendees. Our theme and track that focused on financial literacy was timely since April was designated Financial Literacy Month by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Norm Finlinson, was an apt speaker on this topic and shared the financial literacy initiatives created at Brigham Young University.

The crowd went wild over our talented dinner theater singers, dancers and musicians. These folks could be on the television show "American Idol". Rock on Addalou!

Congratulations to the winners of 2005/2006 WASFAA Awards and Recognition:

Nancee Langley - Lifetime Membership
David Allen - Lifetime Membership
Don Black - Meritorious Achievement
Kathleen Campbell - Distinguished Service
Wendy Olson - Distinguished Service
Francie Campbell and Bert Logan, Training Committee - Committee of the Year
Catherine King-Todd, Volunteer Development - Committee of the Year

And to Steve's President's Award Winners - Doug Severs, Frank Green, Catherine King-Todd, Peter Miller, Leonard Walker and Kay Soltis.

Don't forget to fill out the online conference evaluation at www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/conf_eval_2006.html for your chance to win a free conference registration for the 2007 WASFAA Conference in Anaheim, CA.

- Sending this issue a little early so I can include a reminder about the deadline to apply for the 2006 EDAC Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute Scholarships. It is April 25th and you or your staff members can apply at http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/2006Scholarship_app.html. Remember, your chances of winning are a whole lot better than winning the lotto.
- Thanks to those who took the time to vote in the recent NASFAA election for WASFAA members on the ballot. We were successful in some but not in others. Congratulations to Heidi Granger from College of the Desert, who won as Representative-at-Large and Lois Kelly from Cal Poly State University, new member on the Nominations and Elections Committee representing the WASFAA region.

- The NASFAA Reauthorization Task force has asked for your comments and concerns regarding the recently passed Deficit Reduction Act. As described by Jeff Baker at the WASFAA Conference, there are many questions and need for definition in order to implement some of this complex legislation, including the 2 new grant programs, ACG and SMART. Vicki Shipley, WASFAA Federal Issues Chair urges you to send your input to govtaffairs@NASFAA.org
- Have you seen the latest issue of the Student Aid Transcript? Catherine King-Todd (Thunderbird, the Garvin School of International Management, AZ), WASFAA's Volunteer Development Chair, was one of the financial aid community leaders interviewed for the article on "Guiding, Inspiring and Growing New Financial Aid Leaders." This article was developed by the NASFAA Leadership Development and Professional Advancement Committee and Wendy Olson (Whitworth College, WA) is serving on this committee. By the way, WASFAA 2006/2007 committee chairs are currently looking for committee members. This is often the first step in taking a leadership role. Quick-----, go to the WASFAA website at <http://www.wasfaa.org/docs/forms/memVolunteer.html> and fill out a Volunteer Form out TODAY or tomorrow.
- Have you signed up for or already attended the WASFAA Spring Training on Veterans Affairs and Professional Judgment? These one-day workshops are presented with regional staff from the Department of Veterans Affairs and our WASFAA trainers in all 8 states of the WASFAA region. Go to www.wasfaa.org for a complete listing of the events in May.
- WASFAA Membership Chair, Wendy Olson, reports that current WASFAA membership totals 1,504 members.
- Did you get the paper form of the WASFAA Newsletter? This was included in the conference packet and sent to other members unable to attend the conference. This issue lists the accomplishments of the 21 WASFAA committees and gives a great overview of the WASFAA Strategic Plan for 2005/2010. This years WASFAA Newsletter Co-Chairs are Kathy Campbell at camk@chemeketa.edu and Mike Johnson at mikej@nela.net. They hope to start collecting your updates and articles for their next newsletter and are interested in some feedback from you on your preference for format (electronic or paper?), frequency, and suggestions.
- The Higher Education Act has been extended through June 30, 2006. This allows Congress additional time to reach agreement on reauthorization issues. The House passed the College Access and Opportunity Act (H.R. 609) and a vote on the Senate Bill (S. 1614), the Higher Education Amendments of 2005, will likely take place in the second or third week of May if plans to move quickly take place. A side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate bills can be found at www.aau.edu/education/HEA_Side_by_Side_4-6-06.pdf
- The first meeting of the 2006/2007 WASFAA Executive Council will be on June 29-30 at the Doubletree at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA. UCLA is the site of this year's Sister Dale Brown Summer Institute and the council will be able to attend their banquet and celebration of completion of the week-long training.

Well, that's it for this month. Hope your spring is going smoothly.

Tami Sato
2006-07 WASFAA President